

# MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK

## MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2011

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock met in regular session at the Town Hall on Monday, April 25, 2011 with Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Council Members Charles Cephas, Parker Durham, Michael Henry, Christopher Adams and Clerk/Treasurer Kathleen Clough present. Council Member Michael Nordstrom and Town Attorney Hugh Carter Vinson were absent.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and after the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, the agenda was approved. Council Member Cephas abstained.

### Consent Agenda (Minutes, Department Reports)

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Parker AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, the Minutes of the April 11, 2011 Town Meeting were approved. Council Member Cephas abstained.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Spratt said that after a number of meetings with a developer, things are starting to move forward, and she is also excited about the May Clean-up. Residents can put out their bulk items and the Town will pick them up free of charge. It's a great opportunity to get rid of things in yards and get the Town cleaned up for Spring. Free bulk pick-ups will be every Thursday in May, and there is also a large dumpster at the Police Department.

### Clerk/Treasurer Report

#### 1. ELECTIONS

Another reminder regarding the upcoming elections; the election for Districts 3 and 4 will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company. Again, for those individuals who had previously been registered to vote only in Town of Hurlock Elections, and legally eligible residents of the Town of Hurlock, you must register to Vote in Dorchester County at the Board of Elections. The Town of Hurlock no longer has an individual, separate, voting list. Voter registration cards are available in the Town of Hurlock Town Office, at any Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration, and at the County Board of Elections in Cambridge.

#### 2. PROPERTY TAXES

Regarding the issue of Jackson Street being part of the Town of Hurlock; the Map of 1945, and the Town of Hurlock Charter of 1930, 1986, and 2008, include Jackson Street as being within the Corporate Body of the Town of Hurlock. Additionally, according to voting records, three residents of Jackson Street who have spoken out, have voted in prior years in the Town of Hurlock Elections; which only Town residents are permitted to do.

This puts to rest this issue for the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hurlock. Any further discussion will need to be taken up with the Courts, but will no longer be addressed at Town meetings.

#### 3. GRANTS

The Town is once again applying for the COPS Grant for the Hurlock Police Department to fund two police officers. In addition, the Town is applying for grant money for a new Police Vehicle. This grant will require a modest match from the Town.

#### 4. FIRE HYDRANTS

The Town has applied for funds through USDA Rural Utilities for money to replace twenty-five fire hydrants. The first priority is to get funding for the three hydrants that don't open, and then apply each year until they are all updated.

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5. FINANCIAL REPORTS – UNIFORM FINANCIAL REPORT (UFR)

Included in the Council Packets are financial reports regarding the status of the Town's Finances. These include the Uniform Financial Report (UFR) that was filed on February 2011, less than two months ago. They were sent to the Department of Legislative Services, the Bureau of Census, and the Legislative Auditor. This report captures all revenues and expenditures, along with a detailed listing of the Town's debts and assets.

6. MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION IMPACTING THE TOWN OF HURLOCK.

**A. Highway User Revenues (HURs)**

In the BRFA (Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act -HB 72) the proposal of HUR Funding of \$1.6 Million was increased to more than \$9.9 Million in actual appropriations. This is a onetime-only increase. The intention of the General Assembly in 2013 is to fund HUR Funds at \$6.4 Million for Fiscal Year 2013.

Hurlock HUR Funds for FY 2011 were \$5,552. The General Assembly had proposed \$5,722 for FY 2012. The final appropriated funds, after a lot of lobbying and advocating for Municipalities, for the Town of Hurlock is \$34,332.

**B. Police Aid**

The 35% cut in State Aid for Police Departments will continue.

**C. Unemployment Insurance**

The Federal Government has approved an additional thirteen weeks of unemployment coverage for individuals in the private sector who are unemployed on October 1, 2011. State and Local Governments are not covered. Therefore, the State will provide for 80% reimbursement to municipalities affected by the required extended benefits and 60% to Counties.

Maryland does not allow for Municipal Elected Officials to collect unemployment on their stipends earned as elected officials. What we have recently discovered is that the Town of Hurlock has historically been paying for this insurance for Council members who are not permitted to ever collect it. Through collaboration with the State, the Town will discontinue this practice, and the State will reimburse the Town of Hurlock for payments made for the past two years.

**D. Small Business Semiannual Property Tax Payments**

House Bill 463 provides for semiannual payment of property taxes for small business with total property tax liabilities up to \$100,000 and authorizes a service charge of 1.65% of the second payment to offset the lost interest income and associated administrative fees.

**E. Inflation**

According to information released April 15, 2011 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 2.7% nationwide for the twelve month period ending March 2011. The nationwide increase for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for that same time period was 3%.

Planning & Zoning; Code Enforcement

Mr. John Avery announced that the EmPower grant had been approved and things will now start to move forward with energy efficiency projects for the Town's buildings, and that the Town issued a building permit for a new home.

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## Department of Public Works

Tony Gilliard, Department of Public Works Coordinator, advised that the Spring Clean Up will start May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., with containers located at the Police Department. There will be bulk pick up on every Thursday in May at no charge.

## Hurlock Police Department

Police Chief Hutton reported that the statistics for this quarter were comparable for the same period last year. He attended a seminar on "How to do more with less," with helpful guidelines on how to cut back in these strained economic times.

Former Council Member Bill Mills asked the Mayor to be recognized and thanked Mayor Spratt for hiring Chief Hutton, and thanked Chief Hutton for accepting the job.

It was announced that on May 7<sup>th</sup> the American Legion 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show will be held, and the Multi-Cultural Parade will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> starting at Jackson Street and ending at the Train Station.

## County Councilman Rick Price

Councilman Price announced that the next meeting of the County Council would be the next evening at 6:00 P.M. He confirmed that there are eleven layoffs in the County, five vacant positions will not be filled, for a savings of between \$300,000 to \$500,000. He explained the tax increase and responded to questions from citizens and the Council.

## Old Business

Mr. Avery delivered the Second Reading of Ordinance 2011-02 "Burning Within the Town Limits" .

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2011-2**

**Section 1. Be it enacted and ordained** by the Mayor and Council of Hurlock, Maryland, a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, repeal and re-enact Section 6-105, entitled "Burning Within Town Limits" of Article 1 of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Hurlock, Maryland, entitled "Miscellaneous Offenses (Peace and Order). All other sections of Chapter shall remain as previously enacted.

Council President Charles Cephas requested that his proposed Charter Amendments be tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Spratt recognized former Council Member Bill Mills. Mr. Mills posed a question to Council President Cephas, stating that when Mr. Mills was on the Board, he wanted to make the same changes to the Charter that Mr. Cephas is now proposing, but at that time Council President Cephas opposed those changes. Mr. Mills asked why Council President Cephas was now changing his position and asked that he explain his motivation.

Council President Cephas responded with comments regarding the past election.

A resident spoke out saying: "This whole thing is ridiculous. All you see here is revenge and anger; going after to two people, and we citizens come here and have to listen to this. It's a disgrace."

## New Business

There was no new business brought to the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Clough, M.S.  
Clerk/Treasurer